

SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY FREEDOM TO READ STATEMENT

The "Freedom to Read Statement" from the American Library Association and the Association of American Book Publishers has been affirmed by and incorporated into several policies adopted by the San Marcos Public Library Board as authorized by Section 2.298 of the City of San Marcos Code of Ordinances. These policies include the "Collection Development Policy," the policy on "Library Programs and Displays," and the policy on "Children's Services and Materials." The Freedom to Read Statement was originally issued in 1953 as a joint statement by the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers. "Books" as used in this statement includes all kinds of materials acquired for library use.

- 1) It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
- 2) Publishers, librarians and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation contained in the books they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what books should be published or circulated.
- 3) It is contrary to the public interest for publishers to determine the acceptability of a book on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.
- 4) There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.
- 5) It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept with any book the prejudgment of a label characterizing the book or author as subversive or dangerous.
- 6) It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.
- 7) It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, bookmen can demonstrate that the answer to a bad book is a good one, the answer to a bad idea is a good one.

Adopted: 1978

Revised: September 1993, November 2007, August 2009